

2022-2023

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Taal- en Cultuurstudies (Language- and Culturestudies)

destination city & country	Naples, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	By train
name university abroad	Università degli studi di Napoli L'Orientale
start date	22 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

With the available documents from the International Office and some meetings that we had, the application process was really clear and easy to follow. If there was something that was unclear, I could always send an email and got a fast response. It was sometimes a bit harder to get a reaction from my home university with getting documents signed, but eventually everything worked out.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

As mentioned above, the response to emails was fast and accurate, the information was really clear to me.

academic preparation

A lot of courses from my minor 'Dutch as a second language' were useful for my internship. I also had some meetings with my internship teacher at Utrecht University to talk about my learning goals for my NVT-internship. Besides, I enrolled in the programme Intercultural Learning, for that course were organized two pre-departure meetings.

language preparation

At the beginning of my bachelors program, I chose two Italian language courses at Utrecht University. Before I was already interested in Italy and learning Italian, which is also why I chose Italy as my exchange destination. My ERK-level of Italian wasn't high enough when I applied for my exchange, so I did some extra preparation by following a self-study course from LOI and the course 'Italiano 3' at Utrecht University. During my exchange I did a language course at B1 level.

finances

Of course I applied for the Erasmus Grant and besides that I also applied for the Travel Green Grant since I travelled by train. Those application processes were clear and easy to follow.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was only involved in language courses, so I can only share my experience about this. For my internship, everything was organized quite good, also because I was in direct contact with the teachers, because they were also my coördinators, and they spoke Dutch, which made it easier to communicate.

It took a really long time before I received my time table, which was a bit frustrating at some point, because I sent multiple emails and the only thing they kept telling me was that I needed to wait, but because I didn't have my time table I wasn't able to plan my internship. So this is really last minute and you are not able to see beforehand if courses might overlap.

Summarized, I did an NVT (Nederlands als Vreemde Taal / Dutch as a foreign language) internship, a Czech language course (beginner level) and an Italian language course (B1 level)

academic quality of education activities

The quality was good, but the approach was different than I am used to.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

If you needed help, the easiest way is to call or to go to the office of the teacher during their office hours. Not everyone replies fast at their email, but when you come by they can always help you immediately if you check the right hours.

transfer of credits

I am not really sure if I interpreted this question right, but I had some oral and some written exams. In Italy you receive a grade from 1-30, you need to have 18 as minimum to pass the exam.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Via the university I got in contact with Erasmus Generation, an organization for international students in Naples. I was added to a group chat with more than 600 other international exchange students and to a Facebook Group. My university only organized a welcome day a month after the semester started, with place for about 20 people (not a lot), so I didn't go there, also because I had a class at the same time. But the Erasmus organization organized a lot of meetings and activities, especially in the first week of the semester, so if you wanted you could go to an event every day. Examples are day trips (Vesuvius, Amalfi coast, Capri etc.), dinners, beer pong and clubbing.

My teachers of the courses I followed organized their own introductions of the course, where we could meet all the students from different years and where we were told about the programme and the time table. I also organized a welcome class with my internship where master students told about their experience with the Dutch bachelor programme.

accommodation

I lived in a two-room flat, with one flatmate. Actually, I never met my flatmate, because she worked in a different city, so in the end I had the whole apartment by myself. I had my own big room with a balcony and a shared kitchen/living room with a balcony as well and bathroom. Via Erasmus Generation I was added to their Housing Group on WhatsApp, where the president added available rooms, so that is how I found my place. I think it is a very good way to do so, because it is via an agency which the university recommends, so you are sure that it is reliable. The only disadvantage is that you can only rent an apartment for the whole semester, so I paid for 6 months and only stayed 4 months.

leisure & culture

During my free time I did some of the activities from Erasmus Generation, which made it very accessible to see a lot, because you were able to go on a bus easily. I also explored the city by myself walking or with my friends and family when they visited me. I experienced some of the traditional Italian holidays, which was really interesting. It is really accessible to go out for dinner and also not really expensive, so I did that regularly, it was also really common to go out to a restaurant for lunch.

suggestions/tips

For food is Da Michele the oldest Neapolitan Pizzeria, which is really good. It is best to do take-away, because there are always a lot of people outside waiting with a number for a free table to sit at.

For going out in the evening there are a lot of spots at Piazza Bellini and PH is a café with a lot of international students.

For sightseeing it is really nice to just walk along the seaside, when you are past the harbour, there is a really nice spot close to a private club, there is a small area with boats and a nice place to sit with a view at the Vesuvius and the sea.

You can also do a tour and go to the different castles in the city, for example Castel dell'Ovo, Castel Nuovo and Castel Sant Elmo (which is at the highest point of the city, with a beautiful view, especially with the sunset)

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would really recommend the university for doing the NVT-internship at the Dutch department, for me my internship was a really positive experience. You don't need to have a major in linguistics or Dutch, if you are fluent in Dutch and have a good motivation for doing the internship you can be selected. The coördinators are really kind and helpful and you are free to choose your own teaching method. However, I do believe that the approach of teaching languages in general at L'Orientale is different than Utrecht's approach, in which I prefer the approach of the UU. At L'Orientale the focus is mainly on translation and less on communication, as I have the conviction that communication is a better main focus for practicing a language to apply it on daily life and study/work future. I do recommend the Italian language course from CLAOR, it was an online course, but with a lot more focus on communication and having conversations in Italian. I am not able to judge the other kind of courses, because I was only involved in language related courses. Besides, the structure of the university is quite chaotic, so that is also an aspect to keep in mind, even though I think that this is kind of typical for Southern-European Universities and the workfield.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I really recommend going on exchange and to reflect on useful aspects you experience during your exchange already, so you have a more concrete image of what you've learned and how you can apply this in your future. So my advice is to write your thoughts down a lot and talk about it with other internationals/locals/family/friends to understand different point of views. And of course enjoy the time that you are on exchange, because it is really an unique experience! :)

2019-2020**Report 1**

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>	
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: m.s.v.beckmann@students.uu.nl
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	my Facebook account	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Mickey Beckmann
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
faculty/college	Humanities	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	

Napels - Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

name study programme	Language and Culture Studies / Italian Language and Culture
destination city & country	Naples, Italy
how did you travel to and from your destination?	by airplane
name university abroad	Università degli studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"
start date	28 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 08 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Although the process was very long because in my case I started 1.5 year in advance, everything was very well organized. The application date is usually at the beginning of December prior to the year that you want to go on exchange, but there are already organized meetings in September, October. First you will have general meetings about what it means to go on exchange, some experiences of former exchange students, how to choose the right destination, what the costs will be, how you have to sign up for the Erasmus project etc. Then when you have chosen your destination, they will organize meetings which are focused on specific parts of the world, so a meeting for people who will go to Nord-Europe, one for South-Europe, one for America etc. You are informed far in advance about these meetings and for me they were really helpful since there was time to ask questions and to speak with other students and people of the International Office about going on exchange.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support was really good. If you have a question, you simply can send an email and you will get response in max. 3 days. I always got the feeling that the International Office and the University wanted to help me. The only thing that for me was a bit of a problem, were the opening hours of the International Office, because there was something wrong with my Learning Agreement and I had to adjust it, but even on some of my questions, the International Office didn't know the exact answer, so then I needed to call to the DUO and then those kind of adjustments needed to be signed again by the International Office for which you really need to go to their office hours physically. So in general they are really helpful, they respond back very quickly, but be aware of the fact that adjustments to your Learning Agreement have to be made sometimes and that can again take days so do it on time.

academic preparation

Mostly you are quite free to choose which courses you want to follow at the host university. In my case I chose two courses about subjects that I hadn't studied yet. I did it to challenge myself and to be able to see which other topics I might like to study. Of course I checked if it wasn't a master course, because then they mostly expect that you already have some knowledge of it. In my case I didn't have to prepare so much. Some days before the start of the courses, I got an email of those professors saying that the first class they would introduce the course and explain which books we needed to read, so basically I didn't have to prepare something already in Utrecht.

language preparation

I was very lucky that my university in Naples offered language courses for different levels. It was at an institution that works together with the university and therefore I could get ECTS for it, so that was really nice. I already did Italian language courses at the University Utrecht as well because of my Italian bachelor, so I could send the results of that courses and start on level B2.

Napels - Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

Although they started a bit late because of the coronavirus, I think it still has been really usefull. The course was very intensive, because I had classes everyday from 14:30-16:30, except Monday, but it was worth it! Also the teacher was really good and always tried to help us.

finances

Before you leave, you will get information about the standard living costs in the special organized meeting about finances and moreover, former students mostly know it the best because they have experienced it, so you also can ask them. From the University you will get a standard grant for the time that you will be abroad (the amount depends on which country you go to but for Italy it's 300 euros a month). Before your departure you will get 1200 euros and after your Erasmus you will receive the rest (if you 'satisfy' to the requirements of your Erasmus stay) Of course 300 euros can't cover everything, for example in my case my rent was 400 euros, but I also rented out my own room in Utrecht so that was fine, but obviously you need also money for groceries, for going out etc. Due to corona I only stayed 1 month, but I experienced that groceries are about the same price in Italy as in Holland, only meat mostly is a bit more expensive but in contrast the fruit and vegetables are mostly cheaper, specially at the little groceries stores with the old granny men, definitely go there, it's cute! Then another thing... Naples of course is the city of the good food and PIZZA! You can go to a pizzeria or trattoria and eat pizza or pasta for 5 euros and they have a lot of bars (specially for the young people) where you can buy Aperol Spritz for 1 euro, so going out with friends definitely doesn't need to be so expensive.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

welcome & orientation programme

study programme (content and organisational issues)

At first it was a bit hard to find which courses the university offered, but ones I chosed them, I think I chosed really interesting courses. For me the content was quite challenging because I had not done courses in the same field before, so some concepts were really new for me. Also the teachers really challenged the students, specially of one course which was called 'studi culturali e media'. Honestly I expected it to be less difficult and challenging, because of what other Erasmus students told me about studying in Italy, but it wasn't the case at all. About the organisational issues: it was really well organized. My teachers tried to start up all classes digitally directly after it became clear that we couldn't follow classes physically and in real life. We only missed one class, but they recorded it afterwards so we could re-take it. Also the exams went digitally. It was a bit strange at first of course, but after having done 1 exam, all students were fine with it. Of course the exam system in Italy is different and honestly it is not my prefered way of examining, but that's just the way and has nothing to do with the content or organisational issues, because we got informed on time and everything went very good.

academic quality of education activities

As told above, my teachers were both really good and had a lot of knowledge of the subject/course they gave. I have to admit that one teacher tried to adjust as well to Erasmus students if we didn't understand something, and the other one didn't really do that, but that wasn't a problem. I have to say that sometimes I wished the classes were a bit more like a seminar, but I gues it is just because I am used to it of my classes at Utrecht University, but in Italy it is normal to only have listening classes, so that was a bit different than I was used to, but not a big problem. Moreover, specially in my course 'studi culturali e media' the teacher challenged us, as students, more than usual in Italian courses at the university, because she was really searching an in-depth analysis of texts and of the material.

transfer of credits

At the Orientale University they use an online page like Osiris, which is called Esse3. At the beginning of your stay you will go to the office and then a very kind lady Rossella will help you with all the documents and she will create an account for you so that you will be able to log-in on the Esse 3 and also on your other online learning page where professors put class materials on.

So going back to the transfer of credits... If you want to do the exam of your course, you have to subscribe yourself for the exam, so it is not like in Utrecht that when you are subscribed for a course that you are automatically subscribed for the exam, so be aware of that!! You can find all the exams at the Esse3 page and even in your 'libretto' on Esse3 you can find the courses that you are following and you easily can sign up for that exam. After you have done your oral exam (because yes all final exams are oral) you directly get your note (they use a scale of 1 to 30, and 18 is the minimum like a 5.5). If you accept the note, they will transfer it to the secretary and the secretary will put it on your Esse 3 page automatically. After your Erasmus stay, the secretary will fill in the Transcript of Records, which after you received it back, you have to send to the International Office.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university

The lady responsible for the contact has always been very helpful. She guided us through this difficult period and always kept us up to date with important and useful information, for example: she wrote a little guide of how we could register ourselves for the exams. Also if I had a question, I could always send an e-mail and she replied very quick, so that was perfect!

support guidance of home university

This was also very good. They did send emails right after the coronacrisis started with information and kept students up-to-date if there was new information about the situation. The only thing which in my opinion wasn't the most smart thing to do is telling that we would not receive the grant anymore. Of course I understand that there were a lot of uncertainties because of this extraordinary situation, but this created chaos by students while we already were in a difficult position and had to organize a lot of other things like finding a flight back, seeing how we could continue the stay digitally, how we had to do it with the rent of the apartment etc. Thereby it wasn't always clear if I needed to send my questions to the international Office or at the corona e-mail.

online offer and quality of digital courses

My host university really organized everything very good!! From the moment that it was clear that we couldn't attend the courses physically, they immediately made up a digital programme and we started the course online. One of my teachers recorded the classes and so we didn't have to attend it live and we could re-watch them. The other one gave live classes and unfortunately because of my language course, I couldn't follow it, but she recorded it as well, so I could watch it afterwards. For questions I always could send them an e-mail, and for one course I had a meeting with the professor every Tuesday morning for 30 minutes to ask questions.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

In the end I think everyone resolved the situation very good. We have seen that also in a digital way, it is possible to finish the academic year. The only thing which in my opinion isn't fair, is the arrangement of the UU for people who had to come back and made extra costs. Their model isn't correct and excludes situations which can be very common. In my opinion they should create a better arrangement.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes I definitely will recommend it. Although I only experienced a bit of it physically, I have to say that the locations are very nice. The buildings are really so beautiful and all in the city centre at walking distance! Sometimes it can be possible that you have two classes after each other at another building, and then you only have 15min which can be a bit too less, but the teachers are aware of this so mostly they stop their classes 15min before so everyone has enough time to relocate. Moreover the teachers were really kind and always replied on emails very quick. They also tried to imagine in my situation as Erasmus student, and the fact that the Italian system of course was way different than the Dutch one. At one of my courses I was the only Erasmus student, but my professor still took all the time for me and even proposed a total English program. Moreover the university offers a lot of courses and if you like studying a language, then this is really the perfect place for you, since they offer sooo many languages, also languages that are not so much studied like Swahili for example.

About the destination... in the beginning I didn't know exactly what to expect of the city, because of course people say the city might be dirty, poor, with mafia etc. But before I left I didn't want to let myself be influenced by that too much so I went there with an open/free mind, and it was literally the best thing I have done! The city surprised me so much. It is very diverse and there is so much history; nice buildings, museums, castles, underground city, squares, a LOT of beautiful churches with paintings and frescoes, but at the other side also very beautiful nature and beaches at the Amalfi Coast closeby and the Islands Capri and Ischia. The city is such a rich place because of his beauty! I have visited already a lot of cities in Italy, but actually Naples surprised me the most of all towns I have seen. Of course the poverty is visible in some streets and the area around the station is not so safe to walk alone at night, but that's the case in every big city. Just the diversity is very cool to see! They also have markets which are nice to visit and the funny thing is that the city has neighborhoods with all their own identity. For example a very rich/luxury one, named Chiaia, with shops like Gucci, Armani etc., then the shopping street Via Toledo with common shops like H&M, then next to it there is the Spanish neighborhood that you just have to see (it is not explainable by words), Vomero which is a bit chic as well and lies on the hill, but you can go there by cable car and then have a very nice view and then of course the historical centre with its tiny streets and so many pasticcerie with the Baba and Sfogliatella (typical Neapolitan pastries) and of course pizza Margherita that you can buy for even 3 euros sometimes. There are two famous, good ones: Sorbillo and Da Michele, so try it out when you are there! Then of course also the seafood is really good, specially on the fishmarket. To have drinks there are several bars where you can buy Spritz for 1 euro. Specially at Cammarota Spritz (quartieri spagnoli) or at piazza Bellini.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't be afraid to ask things if something is not clear. All the people always wanted to help and were so polite!! Moreover just try to really live the Neapolitan life!! Become a member of one of the Erasmus organizations, since they really organize nice events and by that you get to know a lot of people. There are many organizations in Naples, but in my opinion their attitude is a bit different each so it depends what you like. There is ESN, but they mainly have Spanish and Italian members and of what I experienced, they don't really try to speak English and because there are a lot of Spanish people, they all start to speak Spanish with each other so for me personally this wasn't the best option. I went to ErasmusGeneration and to ESA. They both have really kind presidents and ones you get to know more people, you will see they become like your family! So I would recommend to join one of these organizations, or both! because a lot of events are also open, so you don't necessarily need to be a member of them and you just can enter in the Whatsapp group so you are up-to-date of the events. (BTW: the membership is 10euros and gives discounts as well)

Report 2

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: b.schouten@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and Culture Studies (Taal- en Cultuurstudies)

destination city & country	Naples, Italy
how did you travel to and from your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Università degli studi di Napoli L'Orientale
start date	17 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	24 / 06 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was pleasant. The instructions were clear and I did not have to do much research to fill in the correct forms. The amount of writing in the application was very reasonable.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support was very good. The international office (hum) has very professional staff. They help you whenever you are in need, and often quite fast too.

academic preparation

In my years as a Language and Culture student I have learned a lot about intercultural competencies and quite a bit of other languages. On top of that my general academic skills have proven to be sufficient abroad. Hence, the academic preparation was sufficient as well.

language preparation

The language preparation was a bit difficult for me personally. I studied british english and spanish at the UU, so I didn't have any academic preparation in speaking italian. Because of that, I decided to follow italian courses outside of the UU. I ended up doing the language courses from Babel. Unfortunately, the level and speed at which we worked was too low for me. Since people from all ages and education levels are in the same class, Babel has no other option but to adjust to the learning speed of the people that have the most difficulty with learning the language. Because of this I ended up learning the mere basics in half a year, which is why I would recommend people to either follow the course at the university itself, or to take a whole year of extracurricular lessons to prepare adequately.

finances

As for finances, I would say the amount of money that you get from your erasmus grant is enough for the bare minimum, but not enough to live comfortably. The prices of rent were quite high in Naples, which I did not expect. I ended up paying 80 euros per month more than I do in the netherlands. If you wanted to live in a cheaper house, you could end up in a really bad residence. I would say you preferably need to double the

amount of the grant yourself to reach a minimally acceptable budget in Naples Excluding your flight ticket.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome was fine. You really have to be a bit independent to get yourself on the rails at L'Orientale. You have to find the erasmus office yourself at the right hours to get your student card. This is not very obvious unless you have spoken to another student that told you so. As for information provision, L'Orientale did enough, but it could have been better. Once you are in you should find yourself one of the many erasmus organizations run by students. I chose erasmus generation, because they had the most diverse members. (Some organizations were 80% spanish, so that was a bit too little diversity for my tastes).

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was supposed to visit many courses in the first two weeks to orientate on which courses I would want to sign up for. Unfortunately, due to the corona outbreak those orientation weeks were cut off after two days. I only got to follow one course in those days, which did not end up in my learning agreement at the end. Afterwards there was no word from the university at all. I was stuck in my house for a whole month, until finally a student found out that lessons apparently were already resumed. I only got to know this in april, so I missed a whole month of lectures in the course I wanted to follow. On top of that, the courses in english, which were promised at the beginning, were not in english anymore, but in Italian, because many of the erasmusstudents in Naples had left and many of the italian natives had returned from their erasmus. That gave the teachers enough reason to do the lessons in Italian. Because of that the level of language skill was too high for most of the courses. Plus, because I was not notified about classes resuming online, I had a huge backlog. I could not find any solution for this. One teacher agreed to do the exam in english with me, and gave the final two lectures he did in april in english, just for me and my other erasmusfriend. I managed to finish that course, and the Italian Language course. To attain the minimum required amount of ECTS I called for help at my sending university and signed up for an extra class in the last moment. Because of this I still managed to get enough ECTS.

academic quality of education activities

I suppose if things would have been normal, then the academic quality would have been better for me personally. If I was involved in the courses from the beginning, I would have had a better image of the contents of the education activities. Contrary to what everyone usually says about the Italian education level, it was actually quite challenging literature and topics we discussed. The teachers held a high standard for everyone's class presence and they seemed more knowledgeable than most workgroup supervisors I have had at UU. I suspect that the grading was a bit generous, because of the difficult situation we were all partaking in.

transfer of credits

As soon as I asked for my transcript of records to be sent to the examensecretariaat, they did it. So no problem there on the administrative side.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university

The erasmus official from the host university was very helpful and probably swamped with e-mails once the lockdown was initiated. Therefore I do not hold her accountable for the delay she sometimes had when replying my e-mails. When the situation started to become normal, she helped in an outstanding way. I do think it was bad of the university itself to leave the erasmus students in the dark for so long. Only the students that had decided upon their courses in the first two days of march were having courses. The students I had

exchanged contact information with were, like myself, just waiting confused for our mails to be answered and the situation to unfold.
support guidance of home university
Very confusing at first. The international office was very adept at answering and securing the situation. I felt they had it under control quite quickly. I did not like the way I was pressured to get home at the beginning. There was no notion of online lessons still and they even had some misinformation about me not being insured if I stayed there, or the embassy not helping me out should I not go home immediately. I called both my health insurance and the embassy to verify these claims and they were not true. Therefore I would give the organization the advice to be careful when making claims like these, because they put a lot of stress on me while they were false. My study adviser miss Botzen also helped me a lot with support from long distance and making effort for me to join courses online in the netherlands, which I am very grateful for.
online offer and quality of digital courses
The language course (CLAOR) was very good. There were a lot of lessons (4x 2 hours per week) and they were very interactive and fun. I liked this the most out of the few educational activities I had. It gave meaning to the days in lockdown and I have actually learned a lot of italian. The Industrialization and Labour in Contemporary Asia course had a very good professor. He was very understanding of the situation and even turned the last two lectures into english just for two erasmusstudents. My course from UU was also very good and quickly adapted to the situation (Methoden en Statistiek 2 door Hugo Quené) I am surprised at how quickly teachers were able to adapt in general.
suggestions/tips on digital exchange
It would have been better if L'Orientale had been a bit more proactive in informing the erasmusstudents of their options. On the topic of education: Keep up the good work! It went surprisingly well.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. Even though it is a confusing bureaucracy at times, you should go to L'Orientale to get out of your comfort zone and becoming an indepent person abroad. For a dutch person, a bit of chaos can be very educational. Also, the teachers are very knowledgeable. And CLAOR is an amazing organization to help you learn languages!
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2015-2016

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanties – Comparative Literature
level	master's (research)
name study programme	Comparative Literature

PREPARATION

exchange application process
A pain. So many forms, so many signatures, and along the way something will go wrong by no fault of your own. My uni in naples only let BA students of Dutch in, but after inquiring

Napels - Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

with the university, it turned out that these spots are barely ever claimed. This meant I could come as long as it was this way again this year. And then some emails got sent to the wrong people and I didn't know for sure if I could go there until a week before. Countless documents you know will need to be changed as soon as you get there and find out which courses you can and cannot go to. The courses might be online, but the orario not always, leaving you in the dark as to what you CAN follow.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
There were office hours and a pre-departure meeting, but nothing more was needed as I went abroad in my BA as well.
academic preparation
If you're in a MA you're fine. The approach is different because the readers become available relatively late and for most part there are oral exams, but those are the most significant differences. The normal MA here is also two years (like an RMA here), so there is no real difference in this regard.
language preparation
I went a month early because I knew all my classes would be in Italian. For some weird reason you can't get credit for this in Utrecht University—whether followed at a private school or university. The private school I went to had Erasmus discounts and gave classes 5 times a week from 9 to 13. I did this for a month, and without I would have been in real trouble. Everything is in Italian, including the oral exams. And though I've heard a lot of stories or professors going easy on Erasmus students—mine definitely did not do this. With all these language things the university in Utrecht does not (probably cannot) help, and there was a language course at the university in Naples, but the start date was after the classes had started (super helpful) and conflicted with my other courses, so I did not go to those.
Finances
The city is affordable to live in, with the more expensive rooms clocking at about 350 max. The Erasmus grant of course only covers a part, but it's manageable. As most of the life here is happening outside, this is what you spend a lot on too (eating out etc.)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
Here you do not sign up for a course, instead you book the exam. This means you can or cannot show up for the classes but it is imperative you book the exam on time, or your grade will take another month to get online (if you harass them about it like I did). Getting my courses to match was a struggle, so I had to switch up some things as my choice ended up being rather limited. Anything I needed help with ended up being a bureaucratic pain only in the last few weeks when the forms needed to be finalized and the exams booked.— Keep in mind that not everyone is authorized to sign your papers, so go to the Erasmus office sooner rather than later with whatever you need (they will tell you to come back Thursday. It will not be signed Thursday).
academic quality of education activities

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There were lectures that were to some level interactive, but far less than in Utrecht. The readings really added another dimension, though the oral exams can still be intimidating. An addition: If you study languages Orientale is a particularly good university. There is a long history of language learning there and they range from Hausa to Finnish to Persian (and Dutch).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
As a rule the Erasmus office was not able to help you unless you came by personally, other than that they were extremely helpful (though they did make some mistakes, but it would not be the Erasmus office without them).
transfer of credits
The credits SHOULD be the same for both uni's, but so far mine have not been processed.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
There was no introduction that I recall, it was a (at times difficult) process of finding your way and asking everyone you meet for help. It was only when I went to the international office with a friend (about a month after I got there) that I learned I needed to "sign in," for example
Accommodation
I found mine on subito.it, some kind of Italian craigslist, and got extremely lucky with the place where I ended up. You can also look while you're already in town, as spread around the city there are "for rent" papers hung up, that way you can go look at the room before you take it. It's really what you prefer.
leisure & culture
A lot of food and outdoor drinking while hanging out in the city squares. Here, as in the rest of Italy, there is plenty to see, for often reduced prices if you're EU and under 24. In Naples all this was cheap compared to Holland, it's not one of the richest regions, and this shows in the prices. There were a lot of warnings about the safety, but what I've encountered never went further than bag/cell phone theft.
suggestions/tips
(see additional comments) Try not to stress too much about the things that remain unclear for a while, the pace is not very high, but it will come together. And with the important things like grades they tend to be online (!) and very fast (since it's an oral you get the grade immediately). Also, be ready for a bureaucratic hellhole (the whole Erasmus thing, wherever you're going). It's literally the only part I did not like one bit about the whole thing, and it eats a lot of time.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. Personally I love the city, and it was a great experience to study in a completely different language (I never studied Italian at university), coming across new, untranslated texts that would otherwise never have found.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

This sounds weird, but assume at all times that the Erasmus office has no idea what they are doing. If you do, you might start thinking what they'll know what you need for something that has Europe-wide rules, or that things will happen because they told you it would next thursday. They don't. On both sides of my exchange things have gone missing/been late/sent to the wrong peron/forgotten/etc. A friend of mine in Italy had to explain to the office there that she in fact really needed verification stamps on her form. And then when she was home she found out they made her into a Hungarian, and not a Croat. Check everything.

2014-2015

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Dutch Language and Culture

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I applied for an intership arrangement, combined with a normal studyprogram. I discovered quite late that the University of Naples starts its lessons in october instead of september. Furthermore, the learning agreement I sent them didn't come back for a long time. I contacted the university after one month and it turned out that they had not received the envelope. I can recommend to take contact more shortly after sending the letter to verify if it has arrived.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I am very happy with the support of the UU. In my choice of doing an internship abroad, drs. Besamusca was very encouraging an enthousiastic. She encouraged me to think about the view of foreigners on Holland, to prepare myself and to choose an exotic city like Naples. Before my stay abroad the international office has helped me a lot to get my paperwork done. During my stay I could always call or e-mail with questions about the learning agreement. The response usually didn't take a long time.

academic preparation

For me it was obligatory to follow a course about teaching Dutch as a second language. This is because my internship at the university of Naples was to give conversation lessons to the Dutch language students. Furthermore, I recommend to be in time with filling in the learning agreement and grant agreement. It did take me quiet some time.

language preparation

I have to admit that I wasn't very well prepared for going to Italy, languagewise. I never spoke any Italian. I did plan a language course at the university of Siena. I can really recommend that. But I would more recommend to take a language course in advance of going abroad. After a little bit of self study at home, my language proficiency in the Italian language was still not A1. Therefore, after the language course in Siena, my level was not higher than A1. If I would have taken courses in Holland, I could have started in Siena on a higher level and in Naples would be able to communicate more easily with the locals, because in general the knowledge of the

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English language in Naples is poor.

finances

The additional money I received from the University for going to Italy was €270,- every month. In addition I received a contribution from my parents every month of €100,-. In addition to the normal €272,- this was €642,- a month and well enough to make a good living in Naples. I didn't go out a lot, but I made quiet a few trips to interesting cultural spots, so that my consuming in this period is average, I estimate. It is cheap to eat in a pizza-restaurant. For a pizza and a drink you will pay around €6,-. The prices in the supermarket were a little cheaper than in Holland.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

My programme existed in an intership on the Dutch language department and a course of German literature. My intership was very free. I could prepare my lessons as I wanted. I did have a lot of talking with my professors, which I was very content with. I could always ask them for help. When I looked for a course, I went to see the German language courses. Because they spoke only little German there and a lot of Italian, I chose to join the German literature course. This course was only twice a week, 2 hours.

My internship took around 12 hours a week.

In addition I took part in an Italian language course at the level of B1. Five days a week from 17 to 19 the professor went through different themes in the book with us.

academic quality of education activities

The German professor expected us to read four short German novels. in the class, we talked about the meaning of certain parts. The professor has a clear mastery over the material. The class was less interactive than the most classes I had at the University of Utrecht.

I was very happy with the teaching in the Italian language course. The professor was very student-minded and knew how to make the grammatics easy for us.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I was very happy with the Erasmus Point in Naples which helped me to find a living space. Furthermore, the international office was very helpful and open 11 hours a week.

transfer of credits

I do not yet know if my credits are transferrable to the system of the UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In Naples there is an active Erasmus club. Italian students that organize activities and parties for Erasmus-students.

They organized also a welcoming party. The university life was for my self to discover, although of course my professor showed me around a little bit.

accommodation

As mentioned, the accomodation is taken care of by the Erasmus Point. I went there a few days in a row to join the daily walks along different flats. First I considered moving in a room for €375,- a month. When I waited a little longer, I eventually found a place for €250,- a month. The average price for a living place is €200,-, but a lot of places are a long way out of the city center or poorely maintained. The area close to the Garibaldi station is

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considered dangerous, so that is worth considering also when booking a flat online.

leisure & culture

There is one small square in Naples, Piazza Bellini where most of the students hang out at night. I also often visited a jazz club.

Naples has a lot of churches and museums to visit. Every first Sunday of the month all state museums are free. Every now and then the Erasmus club organizes trips to other cities like Rome or a weekend to Tuscany.

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I think the general quality of education is lower than a lot of other universities. The most students are drinking a lot of beers together and smoking together. When you like the relaxed atmosphere, can speak Italian and are not too ambitious in studying, I would advice this university.

do you have any additional advice or comments?